

Virginia Militia Now Compact, Trained, Equipped Fighting Force

STRIKING GROWTH IN EFFECTIVENESS

Conforms to Regular Army Requirements in Formation and Equipment.

BIG INCREASE IN FUNDS

Government and State Money Has Been Carefully Expended.

Like a man beholding his natural face in a glass day by day, the public is but little impressed with the progress of events. The man who faces his daily shave sees but little alteration. It is only when some friend who has been out West for five years most considerably slaps him on the back and tells him that he looks a good deal older that he realizes what has happened to him.

So with the life of a people. The man who comes to Richmond once in two years sees the skyline change and the vast improvements which go to make up a modern city's growth. The man who comes downtown every day in his car thinks but little of the metamorphosis going on about him until the facts are marshalled for his inspection.

Remarkable Changes.

It is the purpose of this article to show the progress made by the Virginia Militia, during the past few years. The result is astonishing when the comparison is fully presented. The officers and men of the service, the regimental commanders and department heads—may, the brigadier-general and the adjutant-general, themselves will be surprised at the extent of what has been achieved when presented within the space of a few columns of reading matter.

The putting into effect of the provisions of what is known as the Dick bill marked an important mile in the history of the militia of Virginia and of most other States toward efficiency as a line of national defense. And the Dick bill was born of the advent of the United States as a world power, following the Spanish-American War, and the resultant policy of acquiring territory.

Build Up Militia.

Realizing that a second line of defense, to aid the little regular army in times of war, to be a necessity for effective position in the arena of world politics, it was decided to reform and revivify the militia in Virginia. It may be remarked, the National Guard would be the first line of defense, for the regulars, few in number at the best, would be scattered at posts over the country and her insular possessions.

Prior to the passage by Congress of the Dick bill, which greatly increased the appropriation made by the national government to the militia of the States, from the War Department, Virginia gets \$75,000. A more than tripled sum means better and more modern equipment.

How It Is Spent.

This is divided into two funds. One of \$10,000 is subdivided into \$5,000 for dress uniforms and the expenses of camps of manoeuvre, and the other \$11,000 goes to rifle practice. The second division is \$22,000, used at the rate of \$10,000 for ammunition and \$12,000 for service uniform and equipment.

Now, this great increase in appropriation on the part of the Federal government was predicated on the understanding that the individual States would also use a greater portion of their own means for the same purpose. The old appropriation was fixed in Virginia at one-half of 1 per cent. of the revenue. Excepting the portion set aside for schools and for pensions, by the terms of a bill of which Senator W. W. Sale, of Norfolk, now Adjutant-General of Virginia, was the patron, the Legislature of 1908 increased it to 1-1/2 per cent. All the progressive States of the Union added largely to their appropriations for military purposes. As a matter of fact, Virginia has little to fear military when compared with other States.

Striking Comparison.

A comparison of the appropriation of a number of Southern States shows that the following States appropriate more money for their militia proportionately than Virginia, whose appropriation for the present fiscal year is \$59,757.14, with about 2500 officers and men.

State.	Number militia.	Amount appropriated in 1909.
Florida	2,222	\$22,365.
Georgia	2,947	97,000
Maryland	2,963	70,000
Missouri	2,935	111,000
West Virginia	1,411	15,000
Alabama	1,422	97,000
Arkansas	2,280	111,000
Kentucky	2,000	70,000
Louisiana	2,200	111,000
Mississippi	1,000	10,000
North Carolina	1,600	16,000
South Carolina	2,500	25,000
Tennessee	1,500	15,000
Virginia	2,500	59,757.14

While a majority of the States show appropriations greatly in excess, proportionately, a few follow:

State.	Number militia.	Amount appropriated in 1909.
California	2,991	\$34,100
Colorado	1,160	15,000
Connecticut	1,532	\$164,170
District of Columbia	1,141	15,000
Illinois	2,219	15,000
Indiana	2,219	15,000
Iowa	2,219	15,000
Kansas	1,672	66,000
Maine	1,672	38,175
Massachusetts	2,176	15,000
Michigan	2,719	15,000
Minnesota	1,147	15,000
Nebraska	1,147	15,000
New Hampshire	1,276	38,175
Oregon	1,519	15,000
Rhode Island	1,134	15,000
Texas	2,719	15,000
Washington	1,276	15,000
Wisconsin	3,033	149,000

\$329,476 for general expenses and \$255,000 for erection of armories.

\$198,000 for general expenses and \$252,563 for construction of armories.

In the remaining States legislation has been enacted, or is contemplated, looking toward increases in the funds appropriated for the support of their militia, which will practically place nearly all the States in the Union on a better basis financially so far as the support of its militia is concerned.

The appropriation made by Massachusetts in 1905 was \$1,667,502; that of Illinois, \$57,795; New York, \$632,383.15; New Jersey, \$260,435; Ohio, \$227,700; and Pennsylvania, \$258,000. Arizona, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Vermont, Utah and



MAJOR EDGAR W. BOWLES,
Richmond Light Infantry Blues.

BRIGADIER-GENERAL CECIL C.
VAUGHAN, JR.,
Commander First Brigade.

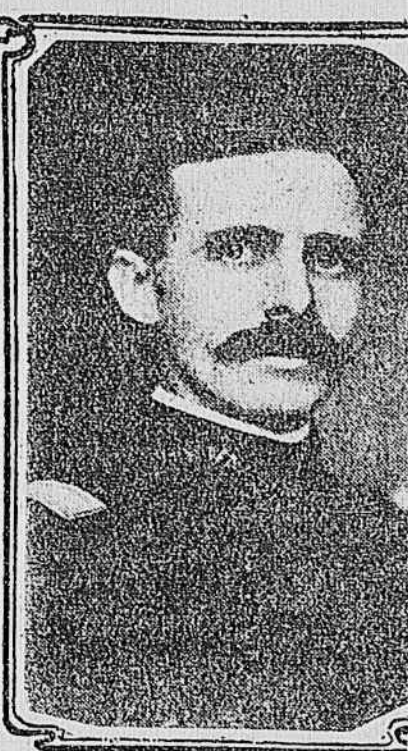
BRIGADIER-GENERAL WILLIAM
WILSON SALE,
Adjutant-General of Virginia.

COLONEL CHARLES A. DEMSEY,
United States Army, Retired.

MAJOR T. M. WORTHAM,
First Battalion, Field Artillery.



LIEUTENANT-COLONEL JO LANE STERN,
Assistant Inspector-General.



COLONEL WILLIAM J. PERRY,
First Infantry.



COLONEL ROBERT F. LEEDY,
Second Infantry.



COLONEL THOMAS J. NOTTINGHAM,
Fourth Infantry.



CAPTAIN CHARLES A. MCLEAN,
Commander Coast Artillery Corps.

Wyoming have each not more than from ten to two troops, averaging about a regiment to each State, yet their appropriations are very liberal, and in many instances in excess of Virginia's proportionately.

Alabama appropriated \$85,000 in 1909 and has \$227; Arkansas, \$23,800 for 1,565 troops; Kentucky, \$20,000 for 2,117 troops; Louisiana, \$22,200 for 1,755 troops; Mississippi, \$10,000 for 1,507 troops; North Carolina, \$16,000 for 2,520 troops; South Carolina, \$25,700 for 1,566 troops; and Tennessee, \$20,000 for 1,510 troops.

Don't Get Enough.

Virginia has now thirty companies of infantry, four companies of coast artillery, three batteries of field artillery, six headquarters and four departments. It is the custom in this State to allot the military fund among the commands on the basis of the number of men present at the annual inspection. The sum thus realized is not sufficient for military purposes, and the companies frequently have recourse to bazaars and call on their friends for help to assist in maintenance. Last year the distribution of money by the State Military Board amounted to \$22,685.

No company can secure its part of the appropriation unless it has the minimum of men and the proper equipment. The commanders are required to furnish the State Military Board with a sworn itemized statement as to what the money is used for. The officer in command must sign this and the account must be approved by a majority of the board before the money is drawn. It will be seen that great care is used in the expenditure of the military funds of the State.

Detailed Report.

Probably the militia is the only department at the seat of government which prints every item of expense in its annual report. A list of the separate vouchers is given, showing just where the money went and for what purpose.

After this sum of, say, \$22,000 is expended, there remains \$25,000 of the funds raised by the State. Of this, \$12,000 goes to quartermaster-sergeants and battery mechanics in wages for care and preservation of military property. The average value of the equipment of an infantry company is \$5,000, and to care for this the quartermaster-sergeants are paid \$15 a month. The property of a battery of field artillery is worth at least \$45,000. It is required that a competent machinist be employed for his entire time to look after this asset of the national government. The batteries are allowed \$125 a month for machinist and quartermaster-sergeant's pay. There is also extra labor at armories to be paid.

Additional Cost.

Then, about \$12,000 more goes for what might be termed general expenses. These include the expenses of court-martial, courts of inquiry, boards of survey, examination of officers, examination of men, care of sick or disabled soldiers, and other expenses not specifically cared for, and which come up in the management of a military establishment.

The rest of the State's contribution to her militia is nearly \$12,000, and goes about as follows: \$5,500 for salaries in the Adjutant-General's office; \$27,500 for running expenses of the office, such as printing, postage, express charges, fixtures, telephones and supplies; \$2,150 for arsenal salaries; \$750 for care of arsenal and supplies; and \$50 for pay and mileage for the assistant inspector-general's office.

Encampment Expenses.

During 1910 one part of the United States fund allotted to Virginia, as her share, amounted to \$56,000. The pay of men and expenses of the joint camp of manoeuvre at Gettysburg cost \$18,110, the pay and transportation of infantry officers to the camp at Peters-

burg, \$2,902.47; the pay and transportation of the field artillery officers to Fort Riley, \$2,824.76; and the cost of the coast artillery encampment at Fort Monroe, \$2,250, together with \$2,389.22 as incidental expenses.

Now, in addition, there was paid an extra sum for transportation and subsistence for the encampments at Gettysburg and at Fort Monroe of about \$12,000, or which \$5,000 was for the latter.

For the promotion of rifle practice the government allots to Virginia \$11,000 a year. Of this, the State's rifle team at Camp Perry costs from \$6,000 to \$7,000. The balance has been carefully husbanded by the Military Board from year to year so as to be used when the State is ready to equip the State rifle range at Virginia Beach. Added to the money thus saved, there will be the appropriation for a State

range of \$15,000, made by the Legislature.

The government expects that this money, outside of the cost of the annual Camp Perry shoot, will be spent on rifle ranges, which has not been done for obvious reasons—Virginia had none. So about \$25,000 has accumulated to the credit of the State, which will come in well indeed when money must be spent on the beach.

With the rest of the United States money equipment is constantly purchased. Not long since \$30,000 was consumed in overcoats alone, which will add immeasurably to the comfort of the men when on duty in inclement weather. Service uniform and ammunition cost lots of money, and the State has \$22,000 a year for this purpose. The amount of ammunition allotted—\$11,000 worth—has been found hardly sufficient for the regular needs.

Any other State in the Union, in proportion to the total militia.

While these camps have been held for the technical and practical instruction of officers, expert training for the enlisted men has not been neglected. Two regular army sergeants, graduates of the school for non-commissioned officers, at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, spend their entire time in this State, going from one town to another, and assisting in drills and imparting instruction. They have been detailed for Virginia's use for three years. The State pays their board and transportation, while their salaries are drawn from the government.

In July, 1910, for the first time, the entire force of the Virginia militia gathered in a manoeuvre camp. Within twenty-four hours the regiments were assembled as units for the trip to Gettysburg, arrived in camp and were ready for work. It was the consensus of opinion that these manoeuvres were of the greatest benefit to the service. This trip was largely at the expense of the United States government.

Officer Teaches.

Besides, the War Department has given a coast artillery officer, who spends practically his entire time in instructing this branch of the service. He is now on the second year of a three-year course. Virginia pays only his hotel and transportation expenses.

Adding to the quota of instruction, inspectors of small arms practice are now required, through a recent order, to visit each company at least twice a year in the commands to which they are assigned. It is their duty to lecture on the use of the rifle, and to encourage practice.

Commanders are now ordered to furnish reports on the efficiency of the officers under their charge.

Attend Inspections.

Attendance at official inspections has shown gratifying improvement.

At the last annual State inspection the headquarters First Brigade, headquarters non-commissioned staff and band of the Richmond Light Infantry Blues Battalion, headquarters First Battalion Field Artillery, Company E, First Regiment, and Company C, Richmond Light Infantry Blues Battalion, made 169 per cent.

Out of a total of 193 officers and 2,352 enlisted men throughout the State, there were present 167 officers and 1,831 enlisted men.

The percentage of attendance credited to the different organizations of Virginia Volunteers is as follows:

First Regiment	83.2
Second Regiment	74.3
Fourth Regiment	76.
Richmond Light Infantry Blues Battalion	98.1
First Battalion Field Artillery	84.5
Coast Artillery Corps	66.1

Average per cent. of attendance of the entire force, 77.7.

During the year a splendid armory has been built for the Richmond Light Infantry Blues Battalion, corner Sixth and Marshall Streets, at a cost of about \$125,000.

A company of infantry has been organized at Leesburg, La., and is now preparing for muster-in. The officers, Captain William H. Gill, First Lieutenant D. Tanner Link and Second Lieutenant A. E. Divine, have been examined and found qualified, and if the new company can pass a satisfactory inspection before the Assistant Inspector-General as to the requirements, it will be accepted, mustered into the State service, and assigned to the First Infantry (Colonel W. J. Perry's regiment), as Company H of that command.

Officers in Conference.

What is regarded by General Sale as one of the most successful of his official acts was the recent conference of officers. The needs of the service

were discussed, and many solutions of problems were reached. It was found that the conference had the effect of eradicating friction, which had previously existed, and the branches of the service of the Virginia Volunteers were brought closer together.

More of these conferences will be held. Next to the officers' camp of instruction General Sale knows nothing which has contributed in such a degree to the improvement of the militia.

On Business Basis.

Under a new policy just inaugurated, it is expected that the State will save at least \$10,000 a year. This is to result from putting the handling of military property on a business basis. An annual inventory inspection is to be made, at which a list of the deficiencies is to be made, showing how each loss was incurred.

All articles are charged to the company to which they are issued, and if the loss cannot be satisfactorily explained, they are charged to the company fund. This became effective on January 1 of this year.

Prior to the issuance of this order the companies were not called to account for the loss of property. The accounts were carried on the books and permitted to accumulate. A great deal was thus lost for which the State had to pay in deductions from its quota of War Department funds.

Systematic requisitions for property now have to be made. An accurate settlement must be consummated at the close of each calendar year. Deficiencies will thus be corrected before the men go to camps, and the Adjutant-General's office will know at the end of the year just what the service needs.

Medals for Service.

Service medals are hereafter to be presented, as an encouragement to enlistment, and as a reward for faithful service. At the end of six years the soldier will be given a bronze medal. At the end of nine years a silver bar will be added, and at the end of twelve a second bar. With the expiration of the fifteenth year a silver medal will be presented, which is to have a gold bar with the eighteenth year, and a second gold bar at the end of the twenty-first year.

Gold medals come along with the twenty-fourth year, and a gold bar will be added for each six years thereafter.

Twenty-five applications for medals have already been made, although the contract for the supply has not yet been placed. These come all the way from general to private. About 300 Virginia Volunteers will be entitled to bronze medals and 100 to silver and gold. Two of the latter go to Lieutenant-Colonel Jo Lane Stern and First Lieutenant Richard Glazebrook, who have each completed forty years of service.

The Adjutant-General proposed to visit each command in the State, and to deliver these medals in person. He expects to keep up these visits each year.

Rifle Team Awards.

Medals were presented to each member of the rifle detail at Camp Perry, Ohio, who made the team. The old custom was to give three medals each year to the three best shots—one from the Governor, one from the Adjutant-General and one from the Military Board. It was found that this encouraged individual shooting at the expense of team work. Of the forty-two men who were sent to Camp Perry, twenty-one qualified as expert riflemen, two as sharpshooters and fifteen as marksmen.

The least important move is the proposed organization of a Virginia division of the National Guard Association. All the officers of the Virginia Volunteers will become members.

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